

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 28
10/22/2015



Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



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INLAND REPORT

TROUT- Stocking update.

DEEP's fall trout stockings nearly complete. From early September through October, DEEP is releasing 29,000 "trophy" and "adult" sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 are "trophy" size Brown Trout (all greater than 12 inches in length), 8,000 are "trophy" size Rainbow Trout, 1,000 are broodstock Brown and Brook Trout, and the remaining 15,000 "adults" are standard size (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout. In addition to these fish, the Farmington River was stocked with 2,000 "trophy" size Brown Trout just before the Labor Day weekend. Note that stockings in a number of areas were delayed or postponed due to environmental conditions (primarily low to very low flows in many streams) and **Several areas typically stocked in the fall, the Hammonasset River, Mianus River TMA, Mill River TMA (Fairfield) and Pomperaug River, were not stocked this fall due to low flows.**

Lakes and ponds stocked this week: in **eastern CT, Black Pond** (Woodstock, 180 2-4 lb broodstock Brook Trout) and in **western CT, Mohawk Pond** (220 2-4 lb broodstock Brook Trout) and **Tyler Pond** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout).

Trout Parks stocked this week: The **Chatfield Hollow** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout), **Day Pond** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout), **Mohegan Park Pond** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout), and **Valley Falls Park Pond** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout) Trout Parks in eastern CT.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS -

Conditions for fishing this weekend will be variable, will fairly nice fall weather in the forecast and recently stocked fish in some areas, but flows continue to be low to very low in many rivers and streams throughout CT (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*).

Streamer fishing on pool tail races, heads and structures has been productive, try white, yellow & brown colors. Patterns/colors include White, Yellow, Tan, Black and Olive Wooly

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at

www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.



Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18), Golden Stoneflies (#8) and Hare's ear (#8-20) is also providing some success. Good reports from the Housatonic River and the West Branch Farmington River, some action also reported from the Salmon River, Shetucket River, Naugatuck River and Natchaug River.

Farmington River – Fishing was fairly good last week on the West Branch (but tougher downstream). West Branch flows remain clear and low, currently 55 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding 17 cfs. Water temperatures are in the mid 50's to low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#20-26, mid-late afternoon), Ants (#16-24), Caddis (tan #14-16, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, morning).

Housatonic River – Fishing was good last week and conditions for this weekend should be good. There's plenty of trout (both holdovers and fall stocked fish), flows are clear, remain very fishable (easy to wade), and on the low side, (currently 361 cfs at Falls Village and 416 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are around 50°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#12-14 evening), Midges (#20-26) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Flying Ants (#14-18) and Light Cahill CDC (#12-14).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been generally slow to fair, with fish still settling into their fall patterns, with some action reported from Mohawk Pond, Tyler Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Beach Pond (near the beach). Fair to Good reports continue from a number of Trout Parks including the Black Rock Pond, Valley falls Park Pond and Chatfield Hollow (Schreeder Pond) Trout Parks.

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing has been mostly slow to fair, but the recent mild weather has livened up largemouth in some areas (shiners are attracting them) with fair to good reports from south-central CT waters (including Lake Quonnipaug, Cedar Lake, and Messerschmidt Pond). Places to try include Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake, Stillwater Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Mashapaug Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Saugatuck Reservoir, Congomond Lakes, Seymour Reservoir #2, Moodus Reservoir and Lake Waramaug. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (fair at best, with a 5.44 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to tough fishing, 2.94 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (slow, 2.71 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (on the slow side for largemouth).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing was as reported as fair to good at Candlewood Lake and fair at Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (still have to work for them, but



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

much better fishing last weekend, with lots of 2-4 lb fish, lunkers included 4.5 lb, 4.13 lb, 4.09 lb and 4.07 lb smallmouth).

NORTHERN PIKE have been reported from Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake and Lake Lillinonah.

ATLANTIC SALMON have been reported from Crystal Lake. So far this fall, DEEP has stocked 1,146 broodstock Atlantic salmon with Crystal Lake (125 salmon) Mount Tom Pond (125 salmon), the upper Naugatuck River (224 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (224 salmon) and Shetucket River (448 salmon) all stocked at least once. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects additional salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. *For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4.*

CATFISH are being caught at Lake Wintergreen.

CHAIN PICKEREL were reported from Wononskopomuc Lake.

CARP are fishing very well in the Housatonic River as well as Batterson Park Pond.

PANFISH are providing fair mid-fall time action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Places to try include Bigelow Pond, Bantam Lake, Cedar Lake, Lake Winnemau, Zemko Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, Savin Lake, Lake Quonnipaug, Messerschmidt Pond, Mono Pond and Morey Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is very fishable, flows are currently a bit below typical mid-October levels and turbidity is moderate. **CARP** action was fantastic last week during the 2015 CT Carp Tournament organized by Catch & Release Professionals (C.A.R.P.) and Big Carp Tackle Co. from Oklahoma. Watch for another tournament next Columbus Day week in 2016. Anglers from several countries and various states in the US competed for cash and prizes. The big fish of the week was a 36 lb 6 oz beast. The total combined weight of the best four caught by one team tipped the scales at 124 lbs 6 oz. Several teams caught over 100 fish during the 100 hour tournament that went from 10 am Monday to 2 pm Friday. Thursday's fishing action saw many anglers catching up to 12 fish per hour as their baited swims came alive with near non-stop action. Give this sport a try and you will be amazed at the sheer power of these fish. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action was good last week in Wethersfield Cove using small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was reported as good in the coves. Try Middletown, Rocky Hill and the Haddam Meadows area. **CHANNEL CATFISH** are providing action throughout the river as many anglers from the Carp Tournament reported. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** (slowing some) are being found in the northern river. Some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are reported in the Middletown to East Haddam area, but fishing has been variable, with some tough days reported.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.

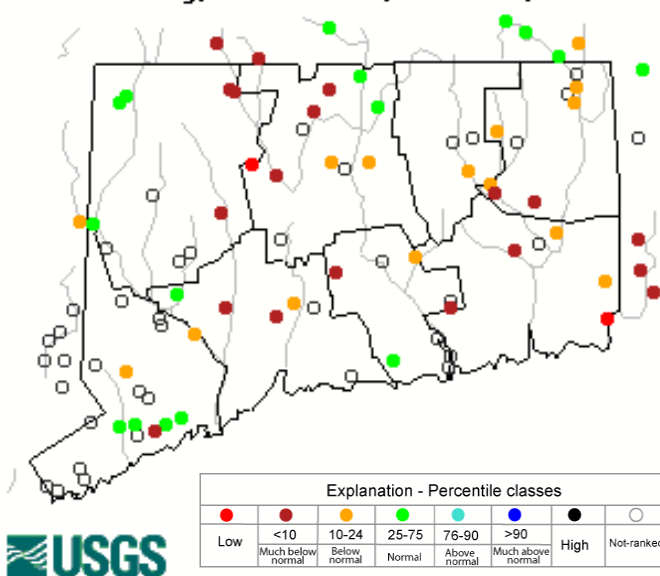


Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Areas" is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Area", from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

Stream flow conditions as of 10/22/2015

Thursday, October 22, 2015 19:30ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered "above normal". Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be "normal flows" and those 25th or less are considered to be "below normal".

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 12 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

BESECK LAKE...A winter drawdown was scheduled to begin last week. The lake is expected to be down by 6 feet on November 1.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Fragments of hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, was found floating near the boat launch in late September. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats will be difficult to impossible.

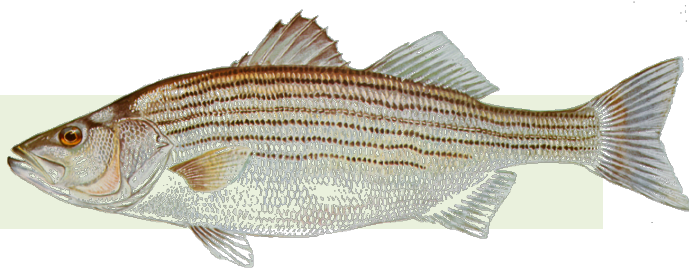
LAKE LILLINONAH (rowing regatta). A high school rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm** in the uppermost one and one-half miles of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution on the northern portion of the lake.

LAKE ZOAR is currently scheduled to be drawn down starting October 24th (**this weekend**) with refilling scheduled to begin November 1st.

UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. Lake Lillinonah is scheduled for a drawdown from November 2 to November 8, and the winter drawdowns of **Highland Lake** (3 feet) in western CT and **Billings Lake** (3 feet), **Middle Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Lower Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Gardner Lake** (3 feet) and **Mashapaug Lake** (1.5 feet) are scheduled to start in early November.

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Saturday, October 31st), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC**, **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low to mid 60's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

REMINDER TO ANGLERS: Whales have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see the [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#) on our website.

Please note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

STRIPED BASS fishing has been fantastic nearshore as large schools of bass push bait into the shoreline. "Those are not bluefish on top busting the bait but schools of large striped bass". Larger "Cow Bass" can still be caught on the local reefs and shoal/ rip areas. Top water plugs along with live eels or bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on three-way or slider rigs have been the ticket. Try your local beach and shore access area...stripers are pushing the "peanut" bunker right to the shoreline. Cast top water plugs and be ready for some fast paced fishing action with bass up to 38 inches reported.

BLUEFISH fishing remains good. The mouths of the Thames, Connecticut, and the Housatonic Rivers during flood tide may be your best bet for both stripers and blues. Other fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, the Race, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford,

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website

<http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

TAUTOG (Blackfish) fishing is good to excellent when it's not blowing a gale. Try fishing areas off the beaten path instead of the popular reefs in order to improve your chances. Any of the rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks in LIS will hold tog. Green, Asian or Hermit Crabs will work. Consider putting the crab (bait) on a jig (1/4 to 1 ounce). It's been a shallow water bite (6-30 feet) for now. However, the togs will move deeper as the water cools.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy) fishing continues to be very good. Any of the rocky reefs will provide nonstop action. Fishing is good to excellent throughout LIS. Time is slipping away... before they migrate out of the Sound! Shore fishing spots for scup [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#).

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Lieutenant River, and Black Hall River.

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing is still good. Points east are better as they migrate out of the sound. These small tuna are still hanging around in eastern LIS, Watch Hill area, the Race, and around Bartlett Reef (find the birds/bait).

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

NOTABLE CATCHES:

<i>species</i>	<i>Length (inches)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>name</i>
Tautog	25.0	9.0	Sean Matthews

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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www.ct.gov/deep

Common Carp and Striped Bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.